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Watch Committee

Watch Report

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COMBINED WATCH REPORT of the UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

No. 1261

24 October 1974 (As of 1030 EDT)

The Committee concludes that there will be no military attack on the United States or its overseas forces in the near future. Subjects of immediate concern are discussed below.

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I. Middle East

Although the Arabs and the Israelis continue to explore political options for a settlement of the Middle East problem, military leaders of both sides are pessimistic over the chances for a peaceful solution. If negotiations bog down in the coming weeks, chances for shooting incidents on the Golan Heights will increase sharply. Both the Arabs and Israelis are prepared to resume major conflict with little or no warning.

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We do not foresee a quick military solution to the Iraqi-Kurdish conflict, and hostilities will probably gradually subside into a stalemate with the onset of winter.

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II. USSR-Eastern Europe

We see no indications of hostile intent in the military activity of the USSR and other Warsaw Pact nations.

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III. Southeast Asia

In South Vietnam, we expect that the most significant military action will continue in Military Region 1, although the Communist capability to carry out major attacks there will become more limited as seasonal rains increase. With the exception of increasing terrorist attacks in the Saigon area, we expect a general lull in fighting elsewhere.

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